

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Editor & Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting: Pat Keith

Volume LXXIII, Number 1 • February, 2023 • P.O. Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026
cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Side by Side: Report on Community Building

with Moving Forward for Racial Justice

For the second year the Village Church, West Cummington, Plainfield and Ashfield all joined for an online celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. along with members of Hands Across the Hills in Letcher County, Kentucky, the area hardest hit by the flooding.

Here's a story shared at that event. This video from 'Good Morning America' celebrates Gwen Christian from Letcher County, grocery store owner, and local hero.

<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Living/video/gma-celebrates-hero-kentucky-grocery-store-owner-94841239>

Growing up African American in coal country, Gwen as a girl faced a great deal of discrimination when the principal wouldn't let her be dropped off at the school from the bus, after fighting for the bus to pick her up in the first place. This isn't mentioned on "GMA" but is a reminder of the past that shouldn't have been and the present that's the fruit of a lot of hard work. The grocery store she now owns is a place she's made into a community hub. When it was wiped out by flooding, people rallied both locally and nationally.

Gwen Johnson, who has joined Village Church services online, was honored by Kelsey Cloonan of Queer Arts Collective for creating a welcoming place for all people at Hemphill Community Center. Kelsey emphasized that Side by Side means to her that "your struggle is my struggle, your fight is my fight."

Two ministers, Rev. Steve Philbrick from Cummington, MA and Rev. Steve Peake from Letcher County closed the day. The event was facilitated by Rev. Sarah Pirtle and Quintissa Peake, daughter of Rev. Peake, both members of the dialogue group, Bridge4Unity.

To broadly represent the theme of "Side by Side," Tom Weiner from Northampton represented Bridge4Unity and talked about reparations work in Northampton, about the Palestinian House of Friendship and his work on training early childhood teachers to raise boys in ways of compassion.

Sarah will be organizing a "Side by Side" zoom this year to continue to connect conversations between W. MA and Kentucky. If you'd like to receive notification, please email her at sarahpirtle@gmail.com.

Steve Philbrick ended the day with this PRAYER

Dear God,

Give us, in this country, courage to love a stranger, an "other"

Help us find, in this country, courage to face the truth

Courage to face what the truth reveals about ourselves AND our country

"Our country"??? give us the courage to make it that; mine and yours and theirs.:

OURS!

Courage not to be who we think we are

The courage to be more than that

AMEN

Quaker Meeting

There will be a Quaker meeting on Sunday February 26th at 10 AM (the 4th Sunday of the month). We shall meet in the minister's study of The Village Church. Since the study is small and cozy, an air purifier will be on. Masks are strongly suggested, and please dress warmly. We worship in the manner of Friends, in silence unless the spirit strongly moves us to speak.

Holding us All In the Light,

Tim Walter, 634-8098

Art show

A small group of mostly seniors has been gathering at the Community House this past year learning how to draw and paint with acrylic paint under the sponsorship of the COA. Jeanne Johns, who has been giving art lessons for more than 55 years, is the teacher. The work has progressed to the point of exhibition level. There is great individuality and creativity. Everyone is welcome to come to the reception on Friday, February 3rd from 5-7 PM at the Cummington Community House.

The art will remain on display in the Community House until the end of February.

Resource Cart

full of useful supplies!

Next time you are in the Community House, take a peek at the cart located to the left of the COA office. (For those who don't know, the COA office is located in the back of the building, across from the kitchen.) We will be filling the resource cart with various helpful supplies. When an item runs out, it will be refilled, so check back! Anytime the building is open, you can come by to take what you need from this cart.

Currently, you will find: NEW ON THE CART—consumer protection calendars for 2023

-masks (both KN95 and N95)

-Covid test kits

-personal health care journals

-file of life forms

-greeting cards for various occasions

-the current Elder Law education guide

-Hilltown fall tourism brochures

-walking maps for Cummington and neighboring towns

-games & puzzles

-and more!

Ed. note: what a great idea!

Ongoing Programs, Activities & Resources

For more information on any of these programs, activities and resources, contact the COA at atcroumeliotis@cummington-ma.gov or 634-2262.

Grab and Go Hot Meal

The next meals will be distributed on Tuesday, February 14th and Tuesday, February 28th.

Ed. note—thanks Chrisoula Roumeliotis for the articles I "gleaned" from the COA newsletter!

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!



Hilltowns, Hearth, & Hygge
WHOLESOME FOODS AFFORDABLE GROCERIES
FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE
Serving our Hilltown Community Daily, 8am-7pm
445 Berkshire Trail • Cummington, MA • OldCreamery.coop



Childcare Funds Available for Hilltown Families

The Hilltown Childcare Subsidy Program has funds available for families who need help paying for childcare. Requirements for the program include: Residency: Families must live in Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, or Worthington. Income: Families must be low or moderate income. The program coordinator will help the family determine their income bracket.

Work or School: All adults in the household must be working at least part time, be in school part time, or be in a job training program part time. Childcare Facility: The daycare, preschool, or before—or after-school program must be licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, but can be located in any city or town. If the family qualifies for the program, they will pay no more than 10% of their annual household income on childcare. For more information, please visit www.hilltownvillage.org/childcare or email childcare@hilltownvillage.org.

Support the Church

To contribute to the Village Church, click on the “Donate” button on our website <https://cummingtonvillagechurch.org> where you may donate electronically via PayPal or credit/debit card. Please also consider setting up recurring payments through your bank’s online banking service as this incurs no fees by the church. Thank you for helping support the Village Church

Friday Night Café

The Café is back! At this time the shows will take place in the Sanctuary. The much loved, familiar Vestry space is too small to adequately address continuing concerns related to COVID, but in the Sanctuary we can spread out.

Food and drink are not allowed in the Sanctuary. However, we will have one snack table in the Vestry with warm cider and cookies, and we invite you to come by early (any time after 6:30) for a bit of “sound check socializing”. Every other pew will be closed to ensure some separation. Masks are strongly encouraged. .

The 2023 Friday Night Cafe takes place at the Village Church in Cummington at 7:00–9:00 PM, on the second and fourth Friday of each month from January–June (Session 1) and again from September–November (Session 2).

Once again brought to you by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community. See you soon!

Friday Night Café
at the Village Church
Cummington Shows 7-9 PM 2023

Jan. 13	Dave Bartley - Blue Jazz
Jan. 27	Jack Swindlehurst & Sarah Stockwell-Arthen
Feb. 10	Elric Walker w/SP Chris and... guests Haynes
Feb. 24	Jim K. / John & Shevaun
Mar. 10	The Old Fashioneds
Mar. 24	Josh Wachtel w/SP James Kitchen
Apr. 14	Hilltown Jazz Quartet
Apr. 28	Marc Fromm & Andrew Kinsey
May 12	One Part Luck
May 26	★ Cliff Eberhardt Village Church Benefit ♥
June 9	Talamana: Laila Jim & Matus
June 23	50 years on - 1973 replayed

www.cummingtonvillagechurch.org
413-634-5398 and on Facebook

This program is supported in part by grants from the Cummington, Chesterfield, Goshen, Hinsdale, Peru, Plainfield, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

CABIN FEVER?



Come to the Friday Night Café

2nd and 4th Fridays, 7:00–9:00 PM

Village Church, Main St, Cummington

(concerts will be held in the sanctuary—
please no food or drink in the sanctuary)

Friday Night Café Off to a Great Start

On January 13, Dave Bartley’s Blue Jazz ensemble played some exciting music. Besides Dave on keyboards, there was Fran Curly on drums, Aaron Dean on Sax, and Dave Christopolis on bass. These guys always have a good show!

On January 27th, Jack Swindlehurst brought us good down-home singing and picking, followed by Sarah Stockwell-Arthen with her lovely voice and great selections.

Don’t miss the excellent February programs coming up! The Café is here, it’s near, and it’s free!



Top: Blue Jazz Bottom left: Jack Swindlehurst
Bottom right: Sarah Stockwell-Arthen

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the March 2023 issue is February 27, 2022. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrblooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entry-way of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.